



# News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of Inspector General  
Washington, DC 20546

For Release  
December 28, 1999

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RELEASE: 2000-020

## **Former NASA Contractor Employee Charged with Accepting Kickbacks**

On December 21, 1999, Vernon R. Baake, a former employee of Lockheed Martin Space Operations, a NASA contractor at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, was charged in a one-count criminal information filed in U.S. District Court in Orlando, Florida, for violating Title 41, United States Code, Section 53, for accepting kickbacks. Baake pled not guilty. Trial is scheduled for February 2000.

Baake was arrested on April 14, 1998, in Brevard County, Florida, by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General and Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, after he allegedly accepted a \$10,000 kickback from a NASA subcontractor.

The investigation is being conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Criminal Investigation Division. Assistant United States Attorney Cynthia Collazo of the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division, (407) 648-7500, is handling the prosecution of this matter.

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